

**live well, work well**

Health and wellness tips for your work, home and life—brought to you by the insurance specialists at M3 Insurance

# Five Inexpensive Ways to be Healthier

*Living a healthy life does not have to cost you*

Developing and maintaining a healthy lifestyle does not need to involve tightening your budget.

Here are some ways to get and stay healthy without breaking the bank:

- Purchase fresh fruits and vegetables that are currently in season. You will get the best tasting food for your money and the most selection to choose from. Opt for products that are the most bountiful at your local farmer's market or grocery store. Also look to see what in-season fruits and veggies are on sale. Then, incorporate those into your weekly meal plans.
- Exercise with a friend instead of joining a fitness club. Your friend will make you accountable for working out, will cheer you on to succeed and will be with you as you make strides towards your fitness goals. If you don't have a human companion to work out with, walk or run with your dog on a regular basis.
- Look for healthy bargains in your grocery store. This may be as simple as

choosing oatmeal instead of sugary, expensive cereals for breakfast; buying beans or portabella mushrooms instead of red meat; or drinking frozen orange juice instead of soda or fruit juice with sugar added.

- Do not smoke! A pack of cigarettes is expensive (and can be much more in major metropolitan cities). If you quit, you will save on the cost of cigarettes and even more in medical bills, as you will be healthier without engaging in this habit.
- Plan your meals before you shop. Knowing what meals you plan to prepare for the week will prevent you from overbuying unnecessary food items.
- Spring for a pedometer. Walking for a specific number of steps per day can help motivate you to reach your fitness goals. Though you will have to invest in

the pedometer, your health will improve and you will reduce your health costs in the long run.

While purchasing something off the fast food menu may seem inexpensive and enticing, the costs to you will be far greater, as grease-filled foods may contribute to significant health problems that will cost you in medical bills and time away from work, family and friends.



## Did You Know...?

Staying healthy does not need to be a financial strain, and exercising can truly be free! Get outside and go for a run or walk. Or, do jumping jacks, stretching and relay races with your kids. You'll improve your fitness without spending a penny!